Per capita income in India

†*98. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the "Global Economic Prospects for 2009" the percentage of people living with 1.25 Dollar per day earning is 41.6 per cent in India;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the income of the poorest people at international level is estimated at 1.25 Dollar per day; and

(d) if so, the estimate of this income in India and the reasons for non-acceptance of international standards in India in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the document, 'Global Economic Prospect 2009' released by the World Bank, the percentage of people living on less than 1.25 Dollar per day is 41.6 per cent in India.

(b) Government of India does not use poverty estimates based on international poverty lines. The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years, following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group of Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.

(c) and (d) The new international poverty line to measure extreme poverty is 1.25 Dollar (in 2005 international dollars) per day. The Government of India does not use the poverty estimates based on international poverty line, since such poverty line does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different States of the country.

Services of extra-departmetal employees

*99. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any Committee to consider the feasibility of regularizing the services of about 2.75 lakh extra-departmental employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when regularization would take place?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government set up a one-man committee with Shri R. S. Nataraja Murti, Retired Member Postal Services Board as Chairman for examining the conditions of service, emoluments

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and other facilities available to Extra-departmental employees now designated as Gramin Dak Sevaks.

The Committee submitted its report on 29-10-2008. The report was examined by the Department and discussed with the Unions. Final decision will be taken after obtaining approval of the Cabinet.

Borders with Pakistan

*100. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US wants India to de-escalate on the borders with Pakistan;

(b) whether India's Foreign Secretary visited US to discuss 26/11 probe and also the nuclear deal in US;

(c) if so, the outcome of discussions;

(d) whether India has now decided to replicate some US anti-terror strategies; and

(e) if so, the points on which the US-India terrorist strategies have been adopted and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) It has been India's long standing policy that India-Pakistan relations are a bilateral concern of both countries and there is no room for any involvement by third countries.

(b) and (c) Foreign Secretary visited the United States of America during 9-11 March 2009 to establish contact with the new US Administration who consulted him on the new US strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. He discussed bilateral relations with his US counterpart including implementation of the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

570. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made adequate provision for expanding the Scout Guides like the NSS and NCC in schools for inculcating values of discipline; patriotism, brotherhood, secularism etc. in the minds of school boys and girls;

(b) if so, the budget that is earmarked for the purpose in the Eleventh Plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.